

CREDITON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1925

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR

Year ending December 31st, 1925

CREDITON :
H. M. PHILLIPS, Printer, "THE KYRTONIA PRESS."

To the Members of the Crediton Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1925.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) 1,096 ; Population, 3,521 ; Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,056 ; Number of Families and Separate Occupiers, 1,080 ; Rateable Value, £16,172 ; Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £54.

The district is mainly agricultural. There are, however, two factories—a medicinal lozenge factory and a chocolate factory.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total.	
BIRTHS { Legitimate	25	16	41	} Birth Rate 11.07
Illegitimate	0	0	0	

	M.	F.	Total.	
DEATHS	24	22	46	Death Rate 13.06

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth	-	-	-	-	from sepsis	0
					„ other causes	0

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate 5 ; Illegitimate 1 ; Total 6 ; Rate for 1,000 births, 146.3

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)			0

POOR LAW RELIEF.

Four cases were admitted to the Poor Law Institution and a total sum of £720 17s. 5d. was expended in Out-door Relief during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Professional Nursing in the home (a) General. The Crediton Sick Nursing Association provide one Nurse, paid for by Subscriptions with help from the County Council.

(b). *For Infectious Diseases*—Nil.

MIDWIVES.

One Midwife provided by the Crediton Sick Nursing Association with help from the County Council.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare—This is held weekly in the Red Cross Room in Market Street. During the year the total attendances were :—

By Mothers	...	...	...	795
By Infants under one year	...	...	...	219
By Children from one year—five years	...	...	...	699

Day Nurseries—Nil.

School Clinics—Held in the Red Cross Room under the County Council.

Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases—There are none in the District ; the nearest are at Exeter.

HOSPITALS.

Tuberculosis—Cases from this District are taken to " Ivybank " Hospital, or to Hawkmoor Sanatorium, at the discretion of the Tuberculosis Officer.

Maternity, Children—Nil.

Infectious Cases are nursed in their homes, but are removed to the Exeter Sanatorium if adequate isolation cannot be obtained at home.

Small-pox—One small tin Hut which would take four beds, three-quarters-of-a-mile from nearest house. No Nursing accommodation.

The other Hospitals available for the District are the Devon and Exeter Hospital, the Dispensary and the Eye Infirmary at Exeter.

AMBULANCES.

(a). For Infectious Cases by arrangement with Exeter Sanatorium.

(b). For Non-infectious Cases: By ordinary cars, or St. John's Ambulance at Exeter, and through the County Council.

There is a Motor Trailer which has not been used as no car in the District has been adjusted for attachment.

LABORATORY WORK.

Throat Swabs, Sputum and Blood for Typhoid are examined and reported on by the Devon County Council Pathological Department, free of cost in the case of poor people.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is provided by the Urban District Council for poor people, on the recommendation of the M.O.H.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water is obtained from Walson, Bow. The quality is good and the supply is adequate. Pressure, however, is insufficient for higher levels and there is not enough storage accommodation.

The supply is cut off at night, which is a serious menace in the cottages in case of fire and is insanitary. All houses are supplied directly.

A scheme is on foot to obtain water from Four Mills, Fordton, this water having been analysed and found entirely satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams.—The Mill Leat leading into the River Yeo is polluted by sewerage from Fordton. This I hope will soon be remedied.

Drains.—The main part of the Town is drained by a combined system and led into Lords Meadow, where it is disposed of by collecting tanks and broad irrigation.

At Thrashers it goes into a collecting tank in a field, which is emptied and cleaned every three months.

In Western Road, two houses empty into a pit on the opposite side of the road, about 20 yds. from the highway ; in my opinion they should be connected with the main sewer which runs down the main road.

At Fordton neighbourhood the drainage empties into the Mill Leat. This is very unsatisfactory and a scheme for remedying this is now receiving your attention.

Closest Accommodation.—With very few exceptions, all closets are supplied with water for flushing. There are a few privies still left which should be converted into water closets. The owners of these have been notified as to conversion and a number of closets without flushes have been converted during the year.

Scavenging.—Refuse is collected twice a week during the summer and once a week during the winter months and taken to Lords Meadow. In my opinion it should be collected twice a week throughout the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—(a). About 70 inspections were made in respect of nuisances. The nuisances were concerned with defective drains, closets, dirty condition of privies, keeping of pigs, overcrowding, visits to milkshops, dairies, cowsheds, factories and workshops, bakehouses.

(b).—Informal Notices served	...	30	} Result— Nuisances remedied.
Statutory „ „	...	5	

Smoke abatement. One complaint received of smoke nuisances from factory, which has been remedied.

Schools.—The sanitary conditions are good. The water supply is good.

HOUSING.

Ten Houses were erected by the Council during the year and five more are in course of construction, but there is still an undoubted shortage of Houses, with a result that there is overcrowding. Also there are a number of two-roomed Cottages which are occupied by families who can find no other accommodation.

This question of housing and overcrowding I have brought to your notice and dealt with in more detail recently. I would urge the Council to consider the question of providing more Houses. New Building By-Laws were made during the year.

STATISTICS FOR 1925.

Number of New Houses erected during the year—

(a). Total including numbers given separately under (b)	...	...	10
(b). With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—			
I. By the Local Authority	...	...	10
II. By other bodies and persons	...	...	Nil

1. *Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	10
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	5
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	3

2. *Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices.*

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Offices	20
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

(A) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, Ac., Act, 1919	Nil
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.			
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	5

- (2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied :—
- | | | |
|---|-----|---|
| (a) By Owners | ... | 5 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | ... | 0 |
- (C) Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.
- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... 0
- (2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 0
- (3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling Houses having been rendered fit 0
- (4) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 0
- (5) Number of Dwelling Houses Demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—All Dairymen have received notices calling their attention to the new order, and inspections have been made. The construction requirements have to a large extent been carried out. There are a few cases still requiring attention, and they are being followed up. There are no dairymen supplying graded or pasteurised milk at present.

Meat.—A meat inspector having been appointed under the Meat Regulations, 1924, inspections were made. Meat condemned is carted away and buried.

There is no Public Slaughterhouse.

Private Slaughterhouses—

				1920.	Jan., 1925.	Dec., 1925.
Registered	...	...	...	6	6	6
Licensed	...	...	...	2	2	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease				Total Cases Notified	Cases ad- mitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	3	2	"
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	"
Enteric Group	...	...	...	"	"	"
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	"	"	"

TUBERCULOSIS. *New Cases and Mortality.*

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0... ..								
1... ..								
5... ..								
10... ..								
15... ..								
20... ..	1			1				
25... ..	2							
35... ..		1				1		
45... ..		1						
55... ..								
65 and upwards								
Totals ...	3	2		1		1		

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—No cases were notified during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD F. L. HUGO, M.O.H.